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In re PATENT APPLICATION of
Inventor(s) Michael CARROLL
Appln. No. 09/416,536

Filed: October 12, 1999 Atty. Dkt. 042846-0313548

TITLE: System and Method for
Presenting Tables in
Selectable Portions Date: OCTOBER 4, 2005

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PAT-286 7/99

Reply Brief
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/416,536
Attorney Docket No. 042846-0313548

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**RECEIVED
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In re PATENT APPLICATION of:

Confirmation No.: 6286

OCT 04 2005

Michael CARROLL

Group Art Unit: 2179

Serial No.: 09/416,536

Examiner: Huynh, Ba

Filed: October 12, 1999

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRESENTING TABLES IN SELECTABLE PORTIONS

REPLY BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
The Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I. INTRODUCTION

This Reply Brief is being filed within two months of the Examiner's Answer (Supplemental) dated August 4, 2005. This Brief responds to the new points raised by the Examiner's Answer.

A. The Status of the Claims

Pending: Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13-16, and 18-26 are pending.
Cancelled: Claims 2, 4, 7, 9, 12, and 17 are cancelled.
Rejected: Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13-16, and 18-26 stand rejected.
Allowed: No claims have been allowed.
On Appeal: Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13-16, and 18-26 are appealed.

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II. RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S ARGUMENTS

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and (e)

The Examiner's has again Mischaracterized the Anderson Reference

Anderson appears to describe a conventional method of entering data into a spreadsheet and performing tasks, such as a cut and paste task, on the data. The Examiner alleges that Anderson teaches "user selectable graphics presentation module 260 that presents one or more user defined and selectable graphical portions in the graphical user interface, each user selectable graphical portion 261 is selectively assigned to the one or more user selectable table portions specified by the user" (see Examiner's Answer at page 4). However, the claims recite a feature wherein a user assigns the one or more user selectable table portions to at least one of the one or more graphical portions. Even if Anderson did teach the feature as the Examiner alleges, assigning a graphical portion (tab) to a table portion (cell) in Anderson is not the same as assigning a table portion to one or more graphical portions as claimed. Since the Examiner acknowledges that Anderson inverts the assigning process, Anderson cannot anticipate the claimed invention.

Additionally, the Examiner takes the position that entering data on a particular spreadsheet page and grouping spreadsheet pages equates to a "user selectable graphics presentation module 260 that presents one or more user defined and selectable graphical portions in the graphical user interface, each user selectable graphical portion 261 is selectively assigned to the one or more user selectable table portions specified by the user." However, each page of Anderson's spreadsheet program is previously associated with all cells that make up a spreadsheet page. Renaming a page does not alter the pre-established association between cells and pages. There is no factual support in Anderson for the allegation that the system described by Anderson enables a user to select a cell and assign that cell to a tab. Rather, at best it appears that a user can enter data into a cell on a spreadsheet page and rename the tab associated with the spreadsheet page. Renaming a tab does not enable the user to associate the cell with the tab. The tab, whether renamed or not, is already associated with the entire spreadsheet page.

Reply Brief
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/416,536
Attorney Docket No. 042846-0313548

Furthermore, the selection of multiple spreadsheet pages is not the same as assigning a user selectable cell (portion of a page) to a tab, as the Examiner alleges. Specifically, the Examiner refers to column 9, lines 44-56 of Anderson as allegedly disclosing this feature. However, even if Anderson does disclose the ability to select multiple pages, Anderson does not disclose assigning these selected pages to a tab. Rather, selecting multiple pages simply allows a task to be simultaneously performed on all of the selected pages.

Because Anderson fails to disclose each and every claim feature, Anderson does not anticipate claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 24, and 26. Thus the rejection of independent claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 24, and 26 must be reversed. Additionally, the rejection of dependent claims 3, 5, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, and 20-23 must be reversed at least by virtue of their dependencies from their corresponding independent claims.

The Examiner has again Mischaracterized the Wilcox Reference

The Examiner has also mischaracterized the Wilcox reference. Apparently, Wilcox discloses a system wherein each page in a notebook application is associated with a page tab and a page z-frame (see abstract; column 4, lines 45-60). The z-frame apparently facilitates the dragging and dropping of objects from one notebook page to another. This enables objects to be moved from one page to another without changing the page to be displayed. A user can view the contents of a second page by holding down a mouse button at the z-frame associated with the second page. Once the mouse button is released, the view is returned to the original page. However, similar to the above described argument relating to the Anderson reference, both the z-frame and the tabs are previously associated with a particular page by default. The user cannot assign a portion of a notebook page to a z-frame nor to a tab because they are pre-associated. The z-frame only facilitates the moving of objects from one page to another.

Because Wilcox fails to disclose each and every claim feature, Wilcox does not anticipate claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, and 24-26. Thus, the rejection of claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, and 24-26 as being must be reversed.

Reply Brief
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/416,536
Attorney Docket No. 042846-0313548

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

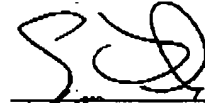
Regarding dependent claims 14 and 19, the Examiner admits that Anderson fails to "teach that the presented portion comprises a single row," and alleges that it would have been obvious to implement the presenting of the single row portion table data. The Examiner alleges that the motivation for this implementation is for the simplicity of the editing (*see* Examiner's Answer at page 6). However, as described above, Anderson fails to disclose user selectable table portions assigned by a user to at least one of the one or more graphical portions. Thus, there is no motivation to "implement the presenting of the single row table data" as the Examiner alleges. As such, the rejection of claims 14 and 19 must be reversed.

Appellants now appeal to this Honorable Board to promptly reverse these rejections and issue a decision in favor of Appellants. All of the claims are in condition for allowance.

DATE: October 4, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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